

of mine. It is the most prolific of
to me. presents plants - full of pleasant
botanical memories. On the last
Season, I collected *Vicia americana*,
Sattypus palustris, & *Sattypus* which I
deem distinct - the whole aspect is very
different from the palustris - ~~smaller~~ ^{slighter} &
rounder leaves &c. - (It looks like what
a well known correspondent sent me as
S. nigropilosa - but different) - Now
I sent it to you. Also *Astragalus Cana-*
densis & *leucopis* - *leucus sericea* - *Spiza*
aphylla - the latter some Gentians -
Paranarrica leucostoma - *Trifolium palustre* -
Platanthera flava - *Liparis Loeselii* - & a
specimen of what I suppose to be ~~of you~~
Spizanthus latifolia. All these are from
the head of the Island - and ^{on the}
head too is the only locality I have
found of the *Equisetum palustre*.
That locality is quite limited. The
thing grows, in the interior, not in a
wet, shallow, rushing swale, but on the

Riippala, Dec. 25, 1862.

My dear Sir:

A merry Christmas & a
very happy New Year to you.
Yours of the 22^d is rec^d last night.
It gives me the greatest pleasure -
the thought that I have picked up
something that pleases you. I can't
repay my obligations to you. I
might have become a respectable
naturalist, but was torn from it
in my youth. Now, my eyes are
fornish - long-sighted - pocket glasses,
somehow, don't suit - can't see
tiny things, so as to tell a scripus
from an elocharis - but go skur-
rying about - depending on old
recollections, and a notion I
have of habit, that is, the general
look of a plant, as settling ~~the~~
its place & even its genus.

I became a Botanist, is hopeless -

I am & must remain a mere collector: but then I collect for my friends, and for the Buffalo Society of the Nat. Sciences. If I can please my friends & help the Society, it pleases me. The Society is doing just what you have been most kind to it & to me. I want it to succeed. Money I can't give it - and I give it all I can - the benefit of my example & pleasant labors. There now, I have shown you a big bit of my heart: and now to business!

I would like the Schidago Muhl-entzi back - or some other species of it. I think it better to have a collection of my own - as well as to do all I can to make the Society *barbarous* full - for believing that it will enable me to work

more easily & effectively next year.

Strawberry Island is in the Niagara River, & thank Heaven! is American.

It is the second Island from the foot of ^{and is $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long.} Lake Erie in its head, & ^{is} grass for fine 20-40 rods, is gravel rising from 1 to 2 feet above the water, and ~~interacted~~ slightly rolling. (Casting is too strong a wind) but the head itself is not ~~absolutely~~ dry and, ^{excepting the heads,} is everywhere grassed & ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~land~~ - you cannot walk dry hotted, across it. A few willows & Cornuses grow on the edge of the head. The lower part of the Island is more marsh. ~~The~~ The fishermen have two ^{small} ~~small~~ ^{stagnant} ~~stagnant~~ ^{places} for drawing nets. The coarse grasses & sedge it produces are cut & cured for stuffing mattresses. Two ^{russky} ~~traps~~ ^{traps} set in to it on the West side near the foot. This Island is a favorite resort

dryish land in the border of it.

I collected but little of it. I think, however, that I have not sent any of it away. & I will look up & send you all I have, preserving only a specimen for the Soc. ^{perhaps,} & one for myself.

I have omitted, in the good things the head has given me - *Equisetum variegatum* - are a few specimens. *Scleria Kalmii* & *Scalamintha glabella*, v. Nutt. *Sellii*.

I do not deem my favorite Island exhausted. I shall, I hope, reap a good deal more from it - if you will only give me - and I know you will - a fair share in the *Spurceae*, *Fyperaceae*, & *Gramineae*. To that end I shall send you, to-day or to-morrow, a package of my gatherings up of them. I was ashamed to trouble you too much, and had prepared it to send to a botanical Correspondent in Pe.

But I infinitely prefer your namings.

The *Antennaria bicoloris* grows
1st in the city, by the side of the
track of the N. & W. State Line Railroad.
2^d In a low meadow, about 1 1/2
miles out of the city. That R. R.
runs through the meadow. 3^d I
noticed it by a road side, a
few plants only - about 2 miles
from the city - near a barn, on
high & dry land.

I will add something to
the package I ~~was~~ threaten
you with. I probably write
you again. I am not with-
out hope that you will find a
thing ~~as~~ too in it to please you.
Because, in general, I grabbed
only what struck me as being
in some way remarkable.

I send you the packages, understanding
that it may be taken up some after New Year's day,
but hoping your time is occupied
fully.

My grabbings of Curriers I sent, you
today, to Professor Seavey. If there
be anything in them of any im-
portance, I'll send it to you.

I wrote, long ago, to Dr Engel-
mann ~~or~~ ^{he never} noticed the
letter. Therefore I am, Christianly,
read at times: and should write
me send to him, until ~~he~~
my wounded pride is somehow
soothed - a cure, I believe, very
easily effected.

I ought to add that, though I
utterly distrust my own conclusions -
I believe I know ~~something~~ of the things
I send you unnamed.

Very truly your friend.

A. M. Johnston.

Prof. Asa Gray.